

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 2-6 and 8-10 are allowed and that claims 1 and 7 are directed to allowable subject matter.

A new Abstract is submitted herewith as required by the Office Action.

Proposed changes to Figs. 9 and 10 are submitted herewith to overcome the objections thereto.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to overcome the objections to claims 1, 7, and 11. Therefore, allowance of claims 1 and 7 is warranted.

Support for the amendments of claims 1 and 11 is provided in Figs. 1 and 7 and the specification on page 16, line 6, through page 17, line 17, and page 29, line 23, through page 30, line 13.

Claim 11 was rejected, under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Nakayama et al. (US 5,371,705). Claims 12 and 13 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Hidaka (US 6,816,418). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to amended claims 11-13, the Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 11 now recites the feature of a word line drive circuit that has a drive transistor disposed between a positive power supply and a word line.

The Office Action proposes that the drive transistor recited in original claim 11 corresponds to Nakayama's transistors 260, 802 in Fig. 15 and transistors 310, 312 in Fig. 17 (Office Action section 7, lines 3-6). However, Nakayama's transistors 260, 802, and 310, 312 are not positioned between a positive power supply and a word line, as now recited in claim 11.

Moreover, Nakayama does not disclose the feature now recited in claim 11 of a switch circuit, provided between a high voltage source and a word line, that is turned on after a drive transistor between a power source of a lower voltage (i.e., the positive power supply) and the word line is turned off.

The Office Action proposes that several components in Nakayama's Figs. 24, 26, and 28 correspond to the originally claimed voltage increasing circuit, in that these components apply a voltage exceeding the power supply voltage (Office Action section 7, lines 7-14). However, the proposed voltage increasing circuits disclosed by Nakayama are not the same as the currently claimed switch circuit, provided between the high voltage source and the word line, that is turned on after the drive transistor

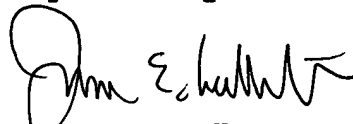
between the lower voltage power source and the word line is turned off.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that Nakayama does not anticipate the subject matter defined by claim 11. Therefore, allowance of claim 11 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE DRAWINGS

Proposed changes to Figs. 9 and 10 are submitted herewith,
with a Letter to the Official Draftsman.